

# THE CRESIDENTS

## OF WIMBLEDON PARK

### **Minutes of AGM held on 14 September 2017 at 7.30pm at 17 Crescent Gardens**

Present were: Flavio Centofanti, Ute & Douglas Dallimer, Shirley Hatherly, Susanna and Aron Thompson, Mary Healey, Tom Riddell, Beate Eberhardt, Janet and Frank Carter, and Christine and Bob Ball.

Apologies were received from: Robin and Peter Rhind, and Judith Centofanti.

#### **1. Minutes of previous AGM**

The Chairman (Douglas Dallimer) opened the meeting, and thanked Beate and Tom for hosting the AGM. Douglas asked whether anyone present had any comments on the minutes of the last AGM, held on 23 August 2016. He noted that these had been published on The Cresidents website and several copies were available at the meeting for perusal. The minutes were then adopted as correct, proposed by Mary H and seconded Susanna T.

#### **2. Chairman's Report**

Douglas D reported on matters from the last year:

- a successful tapas evening was held, with the £148 raffle proceeds being put towards garden maintenance at the church, together with £50 spent on three rose bushes by The Cresidents, and donations of a number of other plants by parishioners;
- around 70 people had attended the wine tasting, with the profits being donated to the RNLI;
- approximately 200 people had attended the Christmas lighting up ceremony, with positive feedback. The event will be held again this year;
- a Christmas drinks evening for adults and children with snacks provided by The Cresidents and BYO drinks was held on 18 December. This was popular evening, and the Committee intended to do it again this year;
- the quiz evening held on 1 April this year was popular with a number of requests for a repeat next year;
- on 22 July this year a garden party was held in the church hall. It had been intended to use the priest's garden, but rain intervened. It was a success despite that;
- the wine tasting for the current year is coming up, with the flyer inviting attendees to be distributed shortly; and
- a Christmas Treasure Hunt for children is being planned for this year, which Judith Centofanti is organizing.

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Douglas reported that there appeared to be a bit of a problem with new neighbours not joining in events, but he would be going around and making sure that they knew they were welcome. Douglas invited any suggestions about other events which people would like to see.

Susannah suggested that on the afternoon/evening of the neighbours Christmas drinks it might be good to have some external entertainer to interest and occupy the children – for instance she knew of someone just starting a business of face painting for children who she thought would be interested in doing it for a fairly small cost. People thought this was a good idea.

Flavio suggested, given the issue of some neighbours not joining in, that it might be worth attempting a survey to see what people would be interested in The Cresidents doing.

### **3. Presentation of accounts**

Ute presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016, which had been published on the website in March. A number of copies were circulated for perusal.

Ute noted:

- the balance held at the start of the year (ie 1 January 2016) was £9,528.39;
- the balance at the end of the year (ie 31 December 2016) was £8,500 which was down £1000 from the start of the year;
- the reason the balance had reduced was primarily due to the costs of insurance (£202), website costs (£75) and the costs associated with the Christmas Lighting up ceremony (£857.30). These included the costs of the loudspeaker hire (£110), and the cherry picker hire to install the lights on the tree (£250);
- we do have a collection for donations on the day of the lighting up ceremony (£108); and
- otherwise most events are intended to break even with any profit usually being donated to a local charity.

Janet referred to the relatively large sum held at the end of the year of £8,500 and asked why we had so much. Ute explained that it was largely historical. In some years we had quite large expenses for Christmas lights in Arthur road (over £2,500 per three years), but the main reason was that we had two or so years of deliberate fund raising at each event when our lift campaign was active. When the campaign was put on hold we had asked all individuals who had made specific donations whether they would like the funds returned – some did, but the majority did not, and

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most of the funds came from profits on events such as the German Christmas market, the wine tasting etc.

Tom commented that we could never have paid for lifts ourselves, the purpose of the campaign was to get TfL to install lifts like those at Southfields. TfL did visit and hold several meetings with us, and looked into the feasibility. TfL advised that it was their objective to have step free access at all stations, and that Wimbledon Park was definitely feasible. However we were not on their priority list of over 40 stations which had significantly greater footfall than Wimbledon Park.

Douglas said that earlier this year five or six people from TfL had been looking again at the station re lift feasibility, but he did not know if we were yet on their list given our low footfall of less than 1 million per year. Bob wondered whether it was worth a census of how many women with prams used the station. Douglas thought TfL did not go to that detail, but even so we would be likely to be a very small station relative to some others still without lifts.

There was a general discussion about the funds held. Janet said she was quite happy with it but had thought it was worth recording the reasons.  
The accounts were adopted.

Douglas invited suggestions about local charities to which profits from future events might be given. Several were discussed. The committee's suggestion of the Wimbledon Guild for the forthcoming winetasting was agreed. Mary will contact them.

Ute noted that Paresh had donated the wine for the lighting up ceremony for a number of years which was generous. The question of who should be asked to turn on the lights this year was discussed. Susanna knew the daughter of a past Wimbledon tennis great (Angela Mortimer) and will ask if she is willing.

#### **4. Election of Committee Members**

Douglas invited nominations as committee members, including asking whether current committee members would be happy to continue. There were no new nominations, and each current committee member present confirmed they were willing to continue. The following committee members were elected: Douglas Dallimer (chairperson), Ute Dallimer (treasurer), Tom Riddell (minute secretary), Aron and Susanna Thompson, Mary Healey and Beate Eberhardt. It was hoped that Judith Centofanti would continue ad hoc.

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### **5. Future Events**

Douglas invited any suggestions for new events and ideas for involving residents. It was agreed that the wine tasting, quiz, summer party, Christmas Tree lighting up ceremony, and Christmas drinks should be held again. There were no other suggestions on the spot, but any ideas should be suggested to the committee. supplemented by other events.

Various ways of attracting residents to events were discussed. Janet commented that she thought using the coloured paper for flyers had been a good idea. Shirley wondered whether there was any way of helping younger residents to find us, and whether we were knocking on doors. Flavio referred to the strap line now on the bottom of our newsletters ("promoting a friendly neighbourhood"), and wondered whether there was a way of finding out what people want.

### **6. AOB**

Bob reported that Peter Rhind had mentioned to him that he was concerned about the frequency and number of Enterprise vans which had been parking in The Crescent, causing problems for residents. Bob had written to the Environmental Department of the council but there did not seem to be a distinction between commercial and private vehicles as far as the parking zone was concerned.

Douglas confirmed that it definitely was a problem which the committee had been discussing and invited Aron to give an update on his parking petition and the Enterprise problem.

Aron advised that his petition had significant support across the parking area, and had also been supported by the local councilors and the developers of the Woodman site. There were quite different concerns in different parts of the area, which was relatively big. Ideally it would suit us to have it divided but councillor Oonah Moulton had suggested to him that the council was very unlikely to want to do that. The council was however taking note of the petition and supported a review. Based on the council's comments Aron hoped that a review would be held after March next year.

Meanwhile both Douglas and Aron had been in touch with the council over the Enterprise problem, whereby Enterprise had comparatively recently started parking large numbers of cars and vans regularly in The Crescent. It was unclear whether anything could be done about them parking out of the restricted hours, but the council had started sending wardens regularly, who were issuing multiple tickets to Enterprise for vehicles parked during the restricted hours. Aron was also contacting senior individuals in the Enterprise organisation to complain.

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Final item: Aron commented on the amount of rubbish in the streets and particularly the irritating habit of building workers drinking in the street and leaving their beer cans. They were Polish beer cans so no prizes for guessing where they came from. Tom said that rubbish generally was a problem. People left an enormous amount, not helped by neighbours leaving out plastic rubbish bags which foxes spread. We'd have to clean it ourselves because the council has stopped the street cleaning service.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.